

STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM (SWIS) COMMITTEE MEETING

1313 Sherman St #521
Denver, CO

May 5, 2005
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Members:

Tami Beaty, Pat Buys, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar, Elise Lowe-Vaughn (proxy for Leroy Williams/Tom Looft), Marva Livingston-Hammons, Walt Speckman (proxy for Senator Dave Owen), Barbara Kirkmeyer (proxy for Mike Beasley)

Council Staff:

Booker Graves, Glenn Little

Absent:

Mary Kay Cook, Doug Glynn (proxy for Bill Moloney), Joe Collins, Mark Davidson, Nancy Stahoviak, Patty Tank, Les Watkins, Mark Warne

Meeting:

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order by Booker as Pat Buys would be late to the meeting.
- II. Adult Discretionary Grants – Glenn Little

Reviewed the status of the current grants. Larimer County has not submitted a report. Booker and Glenn will follow-up on the status of this report and get back to the Committee members.
- III. WIA Allocations Formula

CCI previously stated that the money should be distributed using the same formula each year unless there are complaints. There was a discussion that the current formula for distributing the WIA funds to the regions is working fine now, but when the budget changes the formula may need to be modified

A motion to use the current WIA Allocation Formula and Distribution was approved.

IV. Wagner-Peyser Allocations Formula

A motion to use the current Wagner-Peyser Formula and Distribution was approved.

V. WIA 10% Discretionary Funds

There is a difference in how CDLE and OWD sees the Discretionary Funds distribution. They have not separated the Incumbent Worker Funds from Other Allowable Funds. OWD recommends having Incumbent Worker as part of Workforce Council Grants, so the total for Workforce Council Grants will be \$1,250,000, which will include Adult, Youth, and Incumbent Worker (\$800,000 in Youth and Adult)

A motion to accept the allocations was approved.

VI. Benefit Planners

These positions were started in the WIG. It isn't allowable to include them as part of the Disability Consumer Navigator grant. OWD recommends partnering with DVR and supporting Benefit Planners for clients with disabilities.

A motion to approve \$40,000 in funding for the Benefit Planners was approved.

VII. CIMS Program – Booker

The Council has entered into an agreement with CPEX regarding workforce center performance measures. Colorado Springs and A/D Works! have already received awards. Five regions are training now and 10 more will begin training in the next year.

In two years, all regions will have Baldrige-trained staff. A/D Works! and Colorado Springs have received monetary incentives retroactively for their awards. The other regions will receive monetary awards as they attain their training goals. There has been positive movement among the regions.

VIII. Work Readiness Certification – Booker

The SWIS Committee authorized OWD to engage an organization to evaluate the Work Keys program. Research is being conducted through R&M Resource Development. They're looking at programs across the nation and studying how they function and how businesses accept them. Readiness certificates are trying to establish a baseline for math, reading, etc. skills that are acceptable to businesses.

There is a meeting in Chicago with one state that has a Work Keys program and is trying to create a regional project.

Five local regions are using a WIB-sponsored Work Readiness Certificate. We're looking into creating a centralized certificate that works across the state, not just regionally.

Elise attended NAWDP and is looking at a certificate as an Economic Development tool. She spoke with the President of NAWDP to try and do a statewide certificate. She is looking to partner with another state to create a national model.

Discussion:

- There are not currently measurements in place to determine the value of the certification.
- How does Work Readiness work with TANF clients?
- Doesn't the GED provide the information that employers want? Many employers aren't on board with WorkKeys. The GED shouldn't be disregarded since it does the job that you're looking for as a pre-existing testing system. The number of employers using the WorkKeys system is nowhere near universal.
- The reason for the research being conducted by R&M is to find out the pros and cons of a WorkKeys program.
- There is no one program that meets our needs at this time.
- Employers want to know that employees have basic skills for the job they will be doing. Employers' needs vary so no one program would be able to test for everything.
- Couldn't we package the GED (testing educational skills) and WorkKeys (testing specific job skills)?
- The research is going to give results that will be used to determine if the WorkKeys program is valuable.

A report will be shared with the SWIS Committee in two to three weeks to get input on the direction that the research is going.

IX. Healthcare Grant – Elise Lowe-Vaughn

The budget narrative for purchasing equipment is being finalized, with an estimated cost at \$1.1 million. Also, an agreement with CU Hospital is being finalized for a 6400 square foot area to be used temporarily for the training and simulation center. The 3rd year of the grant will provide for a 20,000 square foot facility at Fitzsimmons.

The program will be providing tools that are not available at universities or community colleges. Training is occurring first with the faculty, so that they know how to use the equipment.

Partners in the project include: UC Hospital (providing a facility and an OR), PBS (live broadcast of training using datacasting), UCHSC (virtual human dissector to develop anatomy classes that are 3-D), Center for Nursing Excellence (completed studies and helping to create the center), UNC (helping to develop classroom criteria), and CCHE.

OWD funded a Nursing Faculty study that is available on the CWDC website. This is a statewide effort, not just Metro Denver. People will have access to information 24/7 via the Portal, so regardless of the client's schedule, they can get to the trainings.

\$500,000 was allocated to the project via the SWIS Committee, and encompasses staffing, curriculum, and PBS broadcasting. This is a three-year project, with \$1.6 million currently received from US DOL, \$1.4 million more coming. There is almost \$4 million of in-kind match.

X. WIA Reauthorization

Colorado received a Performance Incentive award with no funding from US DOL (they do not feel that the Performance Measures measure the correct things).

The House has approved the bill combining all pools of funds. The Senate still needs to present their proposal. The National Governors Association has asked Congress to allow Governors flexibility with WIA Funds.

Adjourned at 11:55am.